

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 50 is currently being amended.

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-15, 33, 34, 36-42 and 44-48 are being canceled.

No claims are currently being added.

Claims 50 and 51 are presently pending for consideration.

Applicants' representative appreciates the indication in the Office Action that claims 50 and 51 contain allowable subject matter. By way of this amendment and reply, claim 50 has been amended to place that claim in independent form to include the features of its base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 50 and 51 are now in allowable form.

It is respectfully requested that this 'after final' amendment and reply be considered and entered, since it places this application in condition for allowance in accordance with the indications made in the Office Action.

This amendment amends and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

In the Office Action, claims 36-41, 44 and 46 were objected to because they depended either directly or indirectly from a canceled claim. Due to the cancellation of claims 36-41, 44 and 46, this objection is now moot.

In the Office Action, claims 1-6, 10, 12, 13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jahnke et al. (U.S. Patent 5,345,756) in view of Rice (U.S. Patent 4,571,935); claims 7 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jahnke et al. in view of Rice, and further in view of Perkins et al. (U.S. Patent 5,160,096); claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Jahnke et al. in view of Rice, and further in view of Iwata et al. (U.S. Patent 5,327,718); and claims 33, 34, 42, 46 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jahnke et al. in view of Rice, and further in view of Perkins et al.; and claims 40 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jahnke et al. in view of Rice, and further in view of Perkins et al. and further in view of Iwata et al.

Due to the cancellation of claims 1, 3-10, 12-15, 33, 34, 36-42 and 44-48, these rejections are now moot.

Accordingly, since there are no other objections or rejections raised in the Office Action, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

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Date

Respectfully submitted,

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